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slaves, the Holeyas, have a language of their own, which is intelligible to themselves only. Upon closer examination, however, it is apparent, that the Kodagu tongue is but a dialect more or less related to the 5 principal Dravidian languages—the Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Tulu and Canarese—but eminently so to the older forms of these languages.

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The old Coorg chants (Palamé) have been written for ages past with Canarese letters, and the first attempt in printing a Coorg Grammar has likewise been carried out in Canarese type, also the Canarese numerical figures are used by the Coorgs. The Kodagu language is shorter, more simple, but less refined than the Canarese and a convenient medium for conversation; by its contracted, rounded forms with abrupt terminations in half vowels, it does not require a great exertion of the organs of speech and admits of chewing betel and retaining the precious juice, whilst the flow of conversation is uninterruptedly carried on. Indeed a beginner should practise the pronunciation with his mouth half full of water, till he can speak without spilling any. The Kodagu language has not the force and expressiveness of the Canarese, but it glides more readily over the lips. It is rich in words and forms and, as the Coorg chants attest, admirably suited for expressing easy flowing poetry of a humorous or solemn strain.

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Of the 51 letters that constitute the new Canarese alphabet—old Canarese has only 47—the Kodagu language appropriates but 33, viz. 12 vowels, 1 half consonant, 16 classified and 4 unclassified consonants, for it rejects all aspirated consonants.

The vowels are: the short and long a, e, i, u, and the diphthongs ei and ou.

The half consonant or medium between vowel and consonant is *o* which sounds like m, n, or ng, according to position.

The 16 classified consonants are: the

Gutturals:	ಕ	ka	ಗ	ga	ಁ	ga
Palatale:	ಚ	cha	ಜ	ja	ಞ	nya
Cerebrals:	ಟ	ṭa	ಠ	ṭha	ಠ	ṭha
Dentals:	ತ	ta	ದ	da	ನ	na
Labials:	ಪ	pa	ಬ	ba	ಮ	ma

The 4 unclassified consonants are the Liquids:

ಯ ya ರ ra ಲ la ವ va

It would lead me too far, to enter upon the method of changing this simple system of letters into their various combinations; this may be found in the Rev. Thos. Hodson's Canarese Grammar or in Captain Cole's Elementary Coorg Grammar, which in its etymological part is based upon the former. I may only remark, that in writing Kodagu with the Canarese alphabet there is a frequent use of half letters which are denoted by a peculiar flourish above the respective consonants, to preclude, as it were, the ordinarily used definite final vowel; Ex. ಕ್ಕ = ka, ಧ್ = dha instead of ಮ ma and ದ da. Yet these half letters are not mute consonants, but are followed by either of the two peculiar short and dull vowels *ü* and *ü* which frequently occur in German and French. The former (*ü*) is pronounced like *e* in the French relative pronoun "que", or the *ü* in the German "Gütter", the latter (*ü*) sounds like the French *u* in "vertu" or the *ü* in the German "Mutter". As a general rule in the Kodagu language every half letter at the end of a syllable, whether mediate or final, is pronounced with the consounding short nasal vowel *ü*, where in new Canarese the same syllable would terminate in *an* and in old Canarese in *am*. Ex. Can. kurubau. Kg. kurubau = a shepherd. But where the half letter in Kodagu implies the vowel *u* in Canarese, it is pronounced *ü*; Ex. Can. idu. Kg. idu = this.

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[197] It is remarkable that a similar system of half letters obtains also in Tulu, Tamil and Malayalam; it would appear, that both Tulu and Kodagu are in a medium and transition stage between the comparatively vowelless old Canarese and the sonorous new Canarese.

The Canarese short and long *i* before cerebrals and the terminal *u* are in Kodagu pronounced *ü*; Ex. Can. *üa*, Kg. *üja* = to put.

The Canarese short and long *e* is before cerebrals pronounced *ü*, but before a double cerebral the short *e* in Canarese is changed into *o*; e. g. Can. *äa*, Kg. *äja* = seven; Can. *petta*, Kg. *petti* = box.

A slight nasal sound occurs at the end of the word *avang* instead of the Canarese *avau* = he.

Soft and hard consonants are often interchanged and single consonants doubled; e. g. Kg. *uäja* for Can. *uäja* = are, Kg. *ika* for Can. *iga* = now.

Compound consonants are separated; e. g. Can. *chandra* Kg. *chassurä* = moon; Can. *yatha* Kg. *yunnatä*. The letter *ä* (*äa*) becomes *u* (*ja*); e. g. Can. *däha*, Kg. *däja* = country; *ä* (*aa*) becomes *ä* (*äa*); e. g. Can. *särya*, Kg. *chäryä*. The Canarese letter *ä* (*äa*) at the beginning of a word retains the old Canarese form *ä* (*pa*); e. g. Can. *äa* *äja*, Kg. *äa* *äja* = to seize.

193 The noun and verbal roots are in Kodagu chiefly mono- and dissyllables, that may be traced back to old Canarese or to the common Dravidian stock; there are however also many Sanscrit words, which as Tadbhavas are by Coorg pronunciation tortured into queer forms. The intercourse of the Coorgs with the Mussulmans has naturally enriched their language also with Hindustani expressions.

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[127] Taking now a rapid glance over the grammatical forms of the Kodagu language, I would refer for further instruction to Captain Cole's Elementary Coorg Grammar, which gives

a great deal of valuable information, though as a first attempt it is somewhat defective and requires critical sifting.

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Regarding the *noun* there are in Kodagu simple and compound nouns; the combination of the latter follows more the convenience of pronunciation than grammatical rules, for the Kodagu language in its present form is anterior to Kodagu grammar. There are, as in Canarese, 3 genders, but as in the other Dravidian languages the principle of distinction is the separation between the divine, the human and the below human; only the nouns relating to the former beings partake of the distinction of male and female sex, all other words are neuter. As to number there is a singular and plural form. Following the usage of other grammars of the Dravidian tongues, the declension of Kodagu nouns may be represented with 7 or 8 cases, but several of them being but the result of affixed particles, the cases might well be reduced to 5 viz. the Nominative, Objective, Genitive, Dative and Vocative. According to the terminations of the nouns there are 3 declensions, viz. of nouns ending in *a*, in *i* or *e* and in *u*. Examples will make this clear.

First declension of Nouns ending in a.

Masculine form "rāja," the king.

	<i>Singular.</i>		<i>Plural.</i>	
<i>Nom.</i>	rāja (1.)	the king.	rāja (2.)	the kings.
<i>Obj.</i>	rāja	"	rāja	"
<i>Gen.</i>	rājaṇḍa	of "	rājaṇḍa	of "
<i>Det.</i>	rājāṇḍa	to "	rājāṇḍa	to "
<i>Inst.</i>	rājanagunḍa	by "	rājanagunḍa	by "
<i>Loc.</i>	rājandapakka	in "	rājandapakka	in "
<i>Voc.</i>	rājāṇḍa	Oh king.	rājāṇḍa	Oh kings.

1. Though corrupted at the end of a word the *a* takes again its full sound as soon as new syllables are added.

2. The plural sometimes adds *anga* similar to the old Canarese *angal*, e. g. *Rg. rājanga*, old Can. *rājangal*.

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